(b) There already exist clear-cut instructions on the subject; hence no further instructions are required.

Pre-condition on return of the pledged gold ornaments by Portugal

1877. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Portugal have put a Pre-condition to return the pledged gold ornaments of Goans to "Banco National Ultramarinho" to that of return of "Evacuee Pro perty" of Portuguese Nationals in Goa;

(b) if so, what is the stand of Government in this regard;

(c) what is the current "Evacuee Property" in the custody of Goa Government and the total property taken in Possession by Government after liberation of Goa in 1961; and

(d) whether Government are aware of the fraud whereby this property has been criminally pilfered by certain individuals, in absence of any claiment to such property by changing "records of rights" and subsequently acquired by the Goa Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) Negotiations are continuing between India and Portugal for the return of the pledged gold ornaments to India. The stand of he Govt, of India is that there can be no linkage with other issues.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected from the concerned State Government.

100RS—4

Ramjanambhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute

1878. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dispute over Ramjanambhoomi-Babri Masjid still remains unresolved depsite Government's declaration to solve the same within a period of fifteen days; and

(b) if so, a what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOH AMMAD SAYEED) : (a) and (b) The Government has not made any such declaration. Recently, the Central Government has consti tuted a Committee comprising Prof. Madhu Dandavate, Union Fi nance Minister, Shri George Fernandes, Union Railway Minister and Shri Mukhtar Anis, Health Minister of Government of Uttar Pradesh to hold consultations with the various groups to find an ami cable solution to the dispute. It is th<5 considered view of the Go vernment that this issue can be re solved in a spirit of mutual accommcidation by building national consensus which is essential for preserving the emotional unity of **the** country.

Hazardous condition of DTC Buses

1879. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the DTC buses especially the private buses under DTC operation are running in a very dilapidated and hazardous condition with broken foot-boards, seats, door handles, rods and bars, dangerous for safe travel of commuters ;